

FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2017 - 1:30 PM
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Edgehill Training Room/DPH, Dover

PRESENT

Jamie Wolfe, Chair; Daniese McMullin-Powell, Vice-Chair; Gene Aucott, Easter Seals; Deb Bradl, DVI; Anthony Carter, JEVs Human Services; Debbie Dunlap, Parent/Advocate (via phone); Sonya Dyer, Dover AFB; Nick Fina, Advocate; Bonnie Hitch, DART; Terri Hancharick, EPIC; Jocelyn Langrehr, DOL/DVR; Pat Maichle, DDC; Bill Payne, Caregiver; Loretta Sarro, DOL/DVR DODHH; Lloyd Schmitz, Council of the Blind/EFOC; Wendy Strauss, GACEC; Jim Steele, National Federation of the Blind-DE; Meredith Tavani/DPBHS; Todd Webb, DelDOT-ADA; John McNeal, Staff; Amber Rivard, Support Staff; Dee Rivard, Support Staff and Jo Singles, Support Staff.

GUESTS

Victoria Counihan, DOJ/AG
Michelle Morin, Office of Supplier Diversity
William Powell
John Moody
Dawn Crews-Seams, Intern-DAFB
Elizabeth Suarez-Gonzalez, Attendant
Joseph Scruggs, DelDOT

Interpreters: Ruth Fisher and Deb Monhollan

CALL TO ORDER

Jamie called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

ADDITION OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

- Committee Reports at the Meetings
- Membership – Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jamie made a motion to approve the June 19th meeting minutes and Wendy seconded the motion. The June 19th meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

BUSINESS

Custie Award Format Discussion & Vote

Jamie spoke about the two nominations for the Custie award. Wendy made a motion that Jack Jadach receive this year's Custie award. Lloyd seconded the motion. Motion was carried with no one opposing or abstaining.

Pat made a motion to accept the Custie Award Process (handout) developed by Nick. Wendy seconded the motion. Wendy spoke about Jack's background, including his long-term commitment to people with disabilities. Motion was carried with no one opposing or abstaining. Pat commented that if anyone had a photo of Mary Custie Straughn to contact her. Her group wants to put a photo of her on a historical segment on their website.

Changing the Statute to Allow for Reasonable Accommodations

John stated that voting is currently not allowed by phone, but video-conferencing is allowed if both parties are in an open meeting setting. This presents a hardship for persons with disabilities. The expense and time it takes to get to the meeting can be burdensome. He said that we need to allow for reasonable accommodations, including calling by telephone. He added that this is in the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). Nick asked about the rationale of having two locations that are open to the public and why not someone's home. Victoria stated that State law states that a meeting has to be in-person attendance or restricts or video-conferencing at two locations where both are public meeting places. She added that the SCPD could change its law and that would override the current State Meeting Law. She noted that there are one or two other boards that made a change in their statute. Victoria offered to do some research on the two boards that have made a change and get back to everyone. Nick offered to work on this due to his strong feelings about it. Jamie commented that we need to make a clear distinction about telephone calls vs. video-calls because some people may not have a computer or do not have the knowledge of how video-conferencing works. She gave several examples of how persons with disabilities face difficulties in getting to meetings. Nick added that we should consider all of these issues, including people with hearing loss. John stated that it would be incumbent upon the Council to ensure that our voting process is clear on that the person voting acknowledges and understands and that we are clear on who voted in what way. Victoria commented that there has to be thought about the logistical challenges. John stated that we need to gather more information and look at it from a federal perspective. He added that once we decide, it should be universal across the state.

The following people volunteered to be part of this Committee: Wendy, Bonnie, Nick, Michelle, Loretta, Lloyd, Jamie, Pat, and Daniese. Loretta spoke about using video-relay and how that would count. John commented that it would be the same as someone calling by telephone. Lloyd commented that this should be done statewide and not restricted to this Council. Pat commented that it should be part of the discussion.

Pat made a motion to form a committee to look at the current federal and state statute regarding reasonable accommodations at meetings. Daniese seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Laura Waterland will be asked to participate and John will send a summary of this to her. Victoria will send pertinent information to Jo.

DeIDOT – New Mobile Application Pilot

Joe Scruggs introduced himself as the Program Manager for DeIDOT Mobile. He referenced and reviewed his PowerPoint presentation (handout). This new application provides real-time information about construction projects, traffic conditions, DART, DMV, upcoming events, workshops and more. There is an application for both iPhones and Android devices. He wants to make it functional for persons with disabilities. He spoke about one of the features called Travel Map, which will show ADA-compliant assets throughout the state. They are also looking at Voice Activation and Voice Interaction. Joe asked for feedback from Council members on how to make the application effective. Pat spoke about being unable to download applications on her State issued cell phone. Joe offered to contact Gene Donaldson (TMC/DeIDOT) and was one of the main proponents of the application. Several other

people spoke about this issue. Todd provided a telephone number to call—302-760-2200 for technical support. If someone wants to report an incident, they can call #77, which brings you to the TMC group.

Jamie asked if the DART app could be put on cell phones and Joe stated that it can be. Joe will email his PowerPoint to the Council. She added that the app notifies you when the DART bus will be arriving shortly, but sometimes there is a delay and she receives notification when she is already on the bus. Joe stated that fixed routes are on the app, but DART is not yet available. DTC is looking into it. Jamie asked about making reservations. Joe commented that it can be done on the website and will be added later under Trip Planning. John spoke about a glitch similar to what Jamie described, including preemptive pick-up calls, saying your ride will arrive in 10 minutes and it takes 30 minutes. Bonnie commented that DART is looking into this. She said there could be delays caused by the previous pick-up. John added that it would be a good understanding to know that information. Jamie commented that this would cut down dramatically on no-shows. Bonnie added that they have cut down dramatically on no-shows. Nick asked about adding a button on the app for people to contact. Joe explained where this type of functionality could be added. John recommended having it in a more prominent spot and is easier to access and gave an example of displaying a question mark “?”. Michelle downloaded the app and gave feedback, saying that when you press DART it gives you an overpopulated list. She asked if there was a way to separate it by County or City/Town to make it more user friendly. Joe explained this is the first iteration and gives people the choice of a map or text listing, but that improvements will be made. He also spoke about the Geo-Locator feature and people will be able to make it more personalized. Lloyd suggested that Joe review an app called Moovit. He also suggested having it on the app and website. Lloyd also asked about adding connectors (inter-county). Bonnie commented that enhancements to the trapeze (Transit Master) needs to be done first and is currently being worked on. Lloyd commented that the maps do not seem to automatically update with a lag of sometimes several weeks. Todd noted that #77 is used to report a road condition and gave several examples. Bill asked if there was a way to phone in non-ADA compliant issues. Joe stated that there is a report an issue feature including pedestrian that is newly added. He added that once all the data is on the phone, he can make it more specific to ADA. Todd spoke about DelDOT Gateway which is online. An ADA inventory feature can be opened and contains ADA and non-ADA compliant information. Bill asked if roads in towns would be included. Joe will check on this, but thinks it will be included as more paratransit information is added. Joe will email the information presented today in his PowerPoint. Jamie thanked Joe for his presentation.

Committee Reports at the Meetings

Jamie spoke about reinstating a standing agenda items on Committee Reports to keep everyone updated on what the committees and workgroups are doing. The following are active SCPD Committees/Commissions and work groups:

Housing Committee
Policy & Law Committee
Employment First Oversight Commission
Executive Committee
Home & Community-Based Services Workgroup
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Workgroup
Health Care Committee
Brain Injury Committee

John will send out a list of these, including Chair, Vice-Chair and Co-Chair positions. This will keep the Council better informed. He said that if the Chair or Vice-Chair cannot attend, they need to designate someone to report at the SCPD meetings. Jamie added that it also gives the Committees credit for the

work they are doing. Nick commented that there are many people attending that have connections to other groups (DDC, GACEC) that could provide a short update on activities on parallel issues. Jamie commented that they would need have a link to what we are doing. Daniese explained that most groups have Chairs and Co-Chairs. John spoke about individuals with disabilities being underrepresented on some of the Committees. John commented that it is a good idea, but staff are currently stretched with work responsibilities. Pat made a motion to make Committee Reports a standing agenda items for the SCPD meetings. Lloyd seconded the motion. Jamie withdrew her original motion that Chairs send a Report ten days prior to the SCPD meeting. Anthony suggested putting the Committee Reports on the SCPD website. They will be included in the minutes which are put on the website. Nick suggested that the Chair send out a call for reports and add highlights received to the upcoming SCPD agenda. After some discussion, it was agreed to list the Committees on the agenda and Chairs/Co-Chairs would report. This will be effective starting with the November 20th meeting.

Membership – Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC)

John spoke about two vacancies on EFOC, which are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Senate Pro Tempore. These two vacancies should be persons with a disability and not a current State employee. John stated that we need to make recommendations to the legislators. Pat added that legislators like to appoint people in their respective districts. The Chair of SCPD also designate a member (currently Cindy Sterling). This person can be someone with a disability or someone knowledgeable about working with persons with disabilities, but prefer someone with a disability. John will check on the exact requirements. Jocelyn will provide a contact person for potential people through the Ticket to Work Program; this program involves job specialists who work with TANF clients with a disability. Jamie commented that this might be a conflict of interest since Goodwill contracts with the State. Jocelyn also recommended contacting Despina Wilson of Independent Resources Inc. (IRI). John will email Despina who is the new Executive Director of IRI about making a recommendation (and copy Jamie). John will draft letters to the legislators. John will follow-up with Cindy Sterling about her continued participation. Daniese recommended that we do not recommend someone working for subminimum wage. Nick recommended someone who DVR placed in employment as suggestion and Lloyd added that would be the ideal candidate. Jamie asked if anyone was interested in serving on EFOC to contact Jo. John will contact Andrea Guest (DOL/DVR). Lloyd suggested a graduate of Partners in Policymaking Program. Jamie thanked everyone for their input.

Other Business

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pat announced that the LIFE Conference Registration is now open.

Todd announced the Project Search is in full swing at DelDOT. Students started their internships today. Daniese thanked Todd for his intervention with an ADA issue at the Smyrna Rest Stop. Todd added that a policy is addressing the issue of having both sets of restrooms closed.

Michelle stated that the Office of Supplier Diversity is looking for a person with a disability who is currently a business owner to participate on the Governor's Supplier Diversity Council. Michelle will send a blurb on the Council. The next meeting is October 17th.

The Annual SCPD Luncheon is October 16th. The registration deadline is September 30th. The SCPD will register members who are not agency representatives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Lloyd made a motion to adjourn. Pat seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Singles
Administrative Specialist

SCPD/min/sep17